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ABSTRACT

This book provides some helpful tools that will allow teachers to use children's literature as a vehicle for modifying cultural stereotypes. The sections contain short summaries of 239 carefully selected children's books, each of which features main characters who contribute to an understanding of one's cultural heritage and ways to modify a cultural stereotype. The characters in the books present a point of view to combat stereotyping. Summaries identify characters from different cultural backgrounds, their problems, and the resolutions. The summaries also indicate the grade level(s) (kindergarten through grade 3, and grade 4 through grade 8) for which each book would be most appropriate and are divided into the following subsections: (1) African American Heritage; (2) Asian American Heritage; (3) European American Heritage; (4) Latino American Heritage; and (5) Native American Heritage. The sections of the bibliography contain entries with examples of realistic/contemporary fiction, folk literature, historical fiction, and biography. Each book is followed by a target activity that can be used to help children internalize ways to modify cultural stereotypes. A final section in the book provides extended activities (mini-units) for a selected few of the children's literature titles summarized in the previous sections. (Contains an index.) (GLR)

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